

## **The Independent Advisory Group on Country Information – Terms of Reference**

The Independent Advisory Group on Country Information (IAGCI) is a functional part of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration (ICIBI). It supports the ICIBI in discharging his responsibilities under Section 48 (2) (j) of the UK Borders Act 2007 to consider and make recommendations about ‘the content of information and conditions in countries outside the United Kingdom which the Secretary of State compiles and makes available, for purposes connected with immigration and asylum, to immigration and other officials.’

The IAGCI will:

- consider the body of information about countries outside the United Kingdom that the Home Office has compiled and is using for immigration and asylum purposes and recommend to the ICIBI when countries, topics and themes should be subject to review
- (through ICIBI) commission independent reviews of agreed countries, topic and themes, and assess and make recommendations to ICIBI about the tenders received
- quality assure the independent reviews, engaging with the reviewers as necessary, prior to the reviews being sent to the Home Office for a response to the reviewers’ findings and recommendations
- meet with the ICIBI and the Home Office to discuss the findings and recommendations from the independent reviews and the Home Office’s response
- send a representative to meetings of the Refugee and Asylum Forum

In considering which countries, topic or themes should be reviewed, IAGCI will have regard to those countries with the highest numbers of rejected asylum seekers. In considering which countries, topic or themes should be reviewed, IAGCI will have regard to those countries with the highest numbers of asylum claims, the reports being newly produced or updated by the Home Office and the current situation in the countries in question.

Each independent review will be commissioned via an invitation to tender (ITT), which will be posted on the ICIBI website. The ITT will specify the country, topic or theme to be reviewed, and will request an assessment of the Home Office’s sources of information and whether these are as complete and up to date as possible, and whether the information made available to officials is accurate, balanced and impartial.

IAGCI will normally meet three times a year. Meeting dates will be announced at least three weeks in advance. Attendance by non-members is at the invitation of the ICIBI. The Minutes of meetings are published on the website.